



# The Colorado Human Trafficking Council: A Statewide Anti-Trafficking Network

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# CO Legislative Response

- In 2006, Colorado enacted its first Human Trafficking and Smuggling laws.
  - ▶ Human Trafficking of an Adult
  - ▶ Human Trafficking of a Child
  - ▶ Involuntary Servitude
- Only had three state convictions in Colorado under 2006 law.

# Colorado HB 14-1273

- 2013 - the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws published the *Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking*
- 2014 - HB14-1273 passed into law
  - ▶ Changed state criminal statutes on human trafficking to better align with federal human trafficking statutes.
  - ▶ Established the Colorado Human Trafficking Council

# Innovations with the CHTC

- Funding of the Council
- Full-time staff
- Legislative Mission
- Timeframe for Council
- Composition of the Council
- Mandates

# Composition of the Council

- 35 members from across the state  
*Membership shall reflect, representation of urban and rural areas of the state and a balance of expertise, of both governmental and non-governmental, on issues of human trafficking.*
- Representatives from:
  - Law enforcement
  - Human services
  - Prosecutors
  - Defense Attorneys
  - Government agencies
  - Services Providers
  - Victim Advocates
  - Regional/City human trafficking task forces & coalitions (5)
  - Non-profit organizations
  - Academia
  - Survivors of human trafficking (4)

# The Legislative Mandates

- Standards for victim services providers
- Recommendations for statutory changes
- Develop a statewide public awareness campaign
- Develop training standards and curricula
- Identify best practices for the prevention of human trafficking
- Data collection on the incidence of human trafficking and the efforts of law enforcement
- Publish an annual report
- Research and pursue funding opportunities to fulfill council goals

# Council Coordination

- January: Host annual retreat to establish priorities and advisory committees
- February: Seek key community stakeholders to serve on advisory committees
- Host monthly meetings of the Council and advisory committees
  - ▶ When necessary, invite subject matter experts to present to Council
- August – November: Establish recommendations and final work product to be highlighted in annual report.

# Why focus on labor trafficking?

- Between 2015-2017, of the 129 state prosecutions on HT, only one constituted labor trafficking.
- Data collection indicated service providers were primarily serving foreign national labor trafficking clients while law enforcement were investigating/prosecuting sex trafficking cases.
- 2017: Dedicated several Council meeting to educate members on the issue.

# Labor Trafficking Task Force

- Established in 2018 and 2019
- Membership included:
  - Academia
  - Colorado Attorney General's Office
  - CO Department of Agriculture
  - CO Department of Labor and Employment
  - County Departments of Human Services
  - District Attorney Offices
  - EEOC
  - Immigrant legal service providers
  - Labor Trafficking Survivor
  - Law enforcement
  - Pinnacol Insurance
  - Regional Anti-Trafficking Coalitions
  - Victim service providers
  - U.S. State Department

# Recommendations of the LTF

- **Three-pronged Approach**
  - ▶ **Protections:** To support populations most vulnerable to the crime.
  - ▶ **Legal Tools:** To hold labor traffickers accountable for their crimes.
  - ▶ **Training and Awareness:** To raise awareness about this form of human trafficking.

# Success Stories

## ■ Policy Changes

- ▶ HB16-1224: Child Sex Trafficking as a form of Child Abuse and Neglect
- ▶ SB19-182: Immunity & Affirmative Defense for Minor Victims of Trafficking
- ▶ **HB19-1267: Updates to Wage Theft Law**
- ▶ Volume 7 Changes: Adopted recommendations for 24-hour child care facilities that serve trafficking survivors.
- ▶ **CDLE planning to adopt a new protocol to provide certification support for T and U visas.**

# Success Stories

- **Training Development & Delivery**
  - ▶ Developed three training curricula that holistically describes human trafficking to create a common understanding and language across the state.
  
  - ▶ 3-Pronged Training Implementation
    - Full-time Training Coordinator
    - Train-the-Trainer Program
    - Online Training Module

# Success Stories

- **Data Collection Efforts on Incidence**
  - ▶ Centralized data collection
  - ▶ Original research to fill in gaps
    - Law Enforcement, Prosecution & Service Provider Studies
  
- **Statewide Public Awareness & Outreach Campaign**
  - ▶ Creation of multi-year implementation plan
  - ▶ Formative research and evaluation planning
  - ▶ Creative concept development